



**United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument  
190 E. Center Street Kanab, Utah 84741**



**For Immediate Release  
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### **Draft --- Temporary Restrictions Lifted**

The Bureau of Land Management announced a temporary restriction of firewood-gathering in the southern portion of the Buckskin Mountain area effective October 15, 2005, through April 30, 2006. The restriction was needed to ensure public safety during fuels reduction operations being conducted to reduce wildfire potential in the area and improve wildlife habitat. Thinning crews completed the approximately 900 acres of thinning on November 16<sup>th</sup>, and the temporary restrictions are no longer needed. Fuelwood gathering is now authorized in the entire Buckskin Mountain Fuelwood area. To aid in the restoration efforts, new and current fuelwood permittees are encouraged to collect the down pinyon and juniper logs scattered within the thinned areas. Permit holders are reminded to follow permit stipulations and comply with all off-road vehicle designations. More information and maps detailing the location of the thinning units can be obtained from any BLM office or BLM Visitors Center.

Firewood gathering, post cutting and Christmas tree cutting is allowed by permit on Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in the Rock Springs Bench and Buckskin Mountain areas.

Buckskin Mountain was chosen for fuels reduction because it is heavily wooded with very little shrub understory. When trees become dense in pinyon-juniper woodland, they

compete with the shrubs, grasses and forbs, eventually killing the understory, leaving mostly bare ground. These shrubs, such as cliffrose, grasses and forbs (broadleaf plants) provide food for many wildlife species.

The restoration project, a joint effort of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, and the Bureau of Land Management, also includes reseeded parts of the area with native seed.